

# NEWS

*For immediate release*



**MARICOPA COUNTY**  
**Environmental Services Department**  
1001 N. Central, Suite 550  
Phoenix, AZ 85004

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Contact: Ben Davis, Air Monitoring -- 506-6443

Courtney James, Public Information - 506-6948

## **Particulate Matter High Air Pollution Advisory is In Effect for the Phoenix Metropolitan Area**

The Maricopa County Environmental Services Department has issued a particulate matter High Air Pollution Advisory that will remain in effect from 10:00 a.m. **Friday, November 12, 1999**, until 10:00 a.m. Saturday, November 13, 1999 for the entire Phoenix Metropolitan area.

The Greenwood air-monitoring site in Phoenix recorded a 100 on the Pollution Standard Index (PSI) for the twenty-four hour monitoring period for particulate matter. A pattern has been occurring for the last three days where the inversion layer is intensifying, causing the concentration of particulate matter to increase. Additionally, a high-pressure system over the state will cause the temperature inversion to remain steady or intensify overnight.

Today's particulate matter High Air Pollution Advisory is a preventive measure to help avert air pollution from remaining in the unhealthful range. Predicting PM concentrations is not an exact science. The MCESD uses best judgment when declaring a High Air Pollution Advisory.

**Health Effects:** When inhaled, particulate matter invades the respiratory system's natural defenses and lodges deep in the bronchial tubes. Normal body defenses (coughing and sneezing) do not remove these harmful pollutants. Particulate matter can increase the number and severity of asthma attacks, cause or aggravate bronchitis and other lung disease, and reduce the body's ability to fight infections. Certain people are especially vulnerable to adverse health effects from PM-10 emissions. These "sensitive groups" include children, the elderly, exercising adults, and those suffering from asthma and bronchitis. Those individuals should minimize outdoor activity and take precautions. The origin of particulate matter is vehicle emissions, unpaved roads, farming, industry, and fireplaces.

Maricopa County is encouraging citizens to make the following choices to help reduce pollution:

- Keep your tires inflated to proper levels and your car tuned.
- Change your oil every 3000 to 5000 miles.
- Reduce driving on days when there is poor air quality.
- Ride the bus, carpool or telecommute.
- Don't burn firewood in fireplaces or woodstove unless it is an EPA-approved fireplace or woodstove.

For more information on High Air Pollution Advisories, call the Maricopa County Air Quality Update Line at (602) 506-6400, or visit [www.maricopa.gov/sbeap/airday.htm](http://www.maricopa.gov/sbeap/airday.htm), or for Spanish or English call the Clean Air Hotline at 1-800-Clean-Up. For up-to-date air quality levels in your area call (602) 420-9458.